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TOR: 261153Z AUG 77

R 260930Z AUG 77
FM USLO PEKING
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8556
RUEHKO/SECDEL TOKYO
INFO RUMJDH/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 5178
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 775
RUEHTP/AMEMBASSY TAIPEI 1235
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 2457
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1886
DEPT PASS USIA FOR IPS
E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS), CH, US
SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION TO THE SECRETARY'S PRC VISIT; TS'AN-K'AO HSIAO-HSI

1. SUMMARY. IN ITS AUGUST 20 AND AUGUST 23 ISSUES THE RESTRICTED REFERENCE NEWS INFORMED PRC CITIZENS OF AUGUST 18 COMMENTS BY STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS ON THE SECRETARY'S THEN IMMINENT PRC VISIT, PROVIDED DETAILED COVERAGE OF THE US POSITION, AND NOTED SECRETARY VANCE'S AUGUST 21 STOPOVER IN TOKYO. END SUMMARY

2. PRC'S RESTRICTED FOREIGN PRESS DIGEST REFERENCE NEWS (TS'AN-K'AO HSIAO-HSI, CIRCULATION 9,000,000) ON AUGUST 20 CARRIED EXCERPTS FROM AN AUGUST 18 REPORT OUTLINING THE COMMENTS OF UNNAMED STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS ON SECRETARY VANCE'S THEN IMMINENT VISIT TO THE PRC. THE ARTICLE, ENTITLED "MODEST GOALS SET FOR VANCE CHINA TRIP," NOTED THE OFFICIALS' COMMENTS THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS VERY LITTLE KNOWLEDGE OF THE NEW LEADERSHIP. THEREFORE, THEY COULD NOT PREDICT THAT A FRAMEWORK WOULD BE PRODUCED FOR IMPLEMENTING NORMALIZATION. THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIP WOULD BE TO ASCERTAIN PRC ATTITUDES AND DISCUSS WORLD ISSUES.

3. THE ARTICLE NOTED THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS ON SINO-US NORMALIZATION:

-- THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION ADHERES TO THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE BUT HAS NO SENSE OF URGENCY NOR TIMETABLE;

-- THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION REMAINS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE TAIWAN PROBLEM;

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-- CONTRARY TO PRESS SPECULATION THERE IS NO ONE IN
THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WHO IS PREPARED TO GIVE
UP SEEKING PEKING'S ASSURANCE THAT IT WOULD NOT USE
FORCE TO SOLVE THE TAIWAN PROBLEM;
-- ON THE BASIS OF TALKS WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND
US PUBLIC OPINION POLLS, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HOPED
THAT NO STEPS WOULD BE TAKEN TOWARD TAIWAN -- WITH
WHICH WASHINGTON HAS MAINTAINED FORMAL DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS;
-- BECAUSE OF THIS, THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WOULD
LIKE TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS BUT NOT ABANDON TAIWAN.
4. THE OFFICIALS ALSO STATED THAT EVEN IF NORMALI-
ZATION ISSUES DID NOT COME UP, THEY FELT THE TRIP WOULD
BE WORTHWHILE. NEVERTHELESS, VANCE WILL PROBABLY
DISCUSS BILATERAL ISSUES AS WELL AS WORLD ISSUES.
WORLD ISSUES WILL INCLUDE KOREA, SOUTHEAST ASIA
(AND VIETNAM), AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST, US-SOVIET
RELATIONS, THE INDIAN OCEAN, ARMS LIMITATION,
NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS. THE BILATERAL
ISSUES WILL INCLUDE NORMALIZATION, TRADE, CULTURAL
EXCHANGES AND FINANCIAL CLAIMS. THE OFFICIALS CONTINUED, THE
CHINESE ARE GREATLY CONCERNED OVER THE SPREAD OF
SOVIET INFLUENCE IN AFRICA. THE OFFICIALS HOPED THAT
THE CHINESE WOLD UNDERSTAND THE US POSITION ON SOUTH
AFRICA AND HUMAN RIGHTS. THE ARTICLE ENDS WITH
VANCE'S JUNE 29 STATEMENT ON THE CHINA QUESTION
(A DIRECT QUOTE). THE REFERENCE NEWS PIECE
IS AN ALMOST COMPLETE TRANSLATION OF AN AUGUST 18 IPS ARTICLE
LEAVING OUT ONLY THE
CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP AS BEING
"MORE CLEAN" THAN IT HAS BEEN IN THE PAST TWO YEARS
AND A STATEMENT THAT THE CHINESE WANT A MORE ACTIVE
US ROLE IN AFRICA.
5. THE AUGUST 23 ISSUE CARRIES A NUMBER OF ARTICLES
RELATING THE SECRETARY'S TRIP INCLUDING EXCERPTS
FROM AN AUGUST 20 WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE BY MURRY
MARDER, AP AND UPI ACCOUNTS OF SECRETARY VANCE'S
AUGUST 21 STOPOVER IN TOKYO, AN AUGUST 21 LONDONOBSERVER ARTICLE ("
IF VANCE'S VISIT TO CHINA FAILS,
THEN AMERICAN POLICY WILL FACE DANGERS"), AN

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AUGUST 19 EDITORIAL FROM TAIPEI'S CENTRAL DAILY NEWS ("JUST AND SINCERE ACTION") AND A SHORT CENTRAL NEWS (TAIWAN) ITEM NOTING A STATEMENT BY AN ROC MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN UNDERSCORING ROC OPPOSITION TO US CONTACTS WITH CHINESE COMMUNIST AUTHORITIES.

6. REFERENCE NEWS' COVERAGE OF THE WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ALSO CITED AN UNNAMED STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL AS STATING THAT IF THE TALKS PRODUCE A NEW BASIS FOR EXPANDNING RELATIONS, THEN AN IMPORTANT OBSTACLE BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND PEKING WILL BE REMOVED. THE ARTICLE NOTED THAT THE US HOLDS THE VIEW THAT IT CANNOT "ABANDON TAIWAN," AND CAN ARRANGE A COMPROMISE IN WHICH PEKING WOULD RENOUNCE THE USE OF FORCE OR PRESSURE TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF TAIWAN'S SECURITY AND ECONOMY. THE ARTICLE ALSO NOTED THAT THIS IS SOMETHING NEITHER NIXON NOR FORD COULD ACHIEVE, AND STATED THAT US OFFICIALS ARE AVOIDING OPTIMISTIC PREDICTIONS.

7. EXCERPTS FROM THE AUGUST 21 LONDON OBSERVER ARTICLE NOTED THAT VANCE'S DISCUSSIONS IN PEKING AND COULD CHANGE THE TRIPOLAR BALANCE OF POWER, EVEN TO THE EXTENT OF HAVING DEEP AND FAR-REACHING INFLUENCE ON THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY AND THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. THE ARTICLE STATED THAT DOAK BARNETT AND STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS FEEL THAT MOVEMENT TOWARD NORMALIZATION WOULD GIVE AMERICAN AND WORLD PUBLIC OPINION THE IMPRESSION THAT TAIWAN IS BEING "SOLD OUT". THEREFORE, THIS COULD LEAD TO ANOTHER DEBATE IN THE UNITED STATES OVER "WHO LOST CHINA".

8. COPIES OF THE TWO ISSUES BEING POUCHED TO HONGKONG AND DEPARTMENT. WOODCOCK

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